



JC03 Rec'd PCT/PTO 03 MAY 2005

PCT

00684.103076

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Natsuhiko MIZUTANI

Application No.: 10/529,893

Entry into U.S. National

Stage Under 35 U.S.C. § 371: April 1, 2005

For: NEAR-FIELD EXPOSURE METHOD AND
APPARATUS, NEAR-FIELD EXPOSURE
MASK, AND DEVICE MANUFACTURING
METHOD

) : Examiner: Unassigned
): Group Art Unit: Unassigned
):
):

) : May 3, 2005
):
):

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form. Copies of the European patent document and the non-patent document are also enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 6,171,730 is discussed on pages 2-3 of the subject specification.

U.S. Patent Nos. 6,171,730 and 6,187,482, European Patent No. 1 150 162 A, and Alkaisi et al. "Nanolithography In The Evanescent Near Field" were cited in an International Search Report, which was mailed on February 7, 2005, from the European Patent Office in corresponding International Application No. PCT/JP2004/011648. A copy of the International Search Report and a Written Opinion mailed February 7, 2005 are also enclosed.

Applicant requests that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 form be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, no fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(2) is believed due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner may charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205, should any fee be due for filing this paper.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

May 3, 2005

ATTY DOCKET NO. 00684.103076

APPLICATION NO. 10/529,893

APPLICANT Natsuhiko MIZUTANI

FILING DATE April 1, 2005

GROUP Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		US 6,171,730 B1	01/09/2001	Kuroda et al.	430	5	
		US 6,187,482 B1	02/13/2001	Kuroda et al.	430	5	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		1 150 162 A2	10/31/2001	Europe			

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	International Search Report mailed February 7, 2005, issued in International Application No. PCT/JP2004/011648.
	Written Opinion mailed February 7, 2005, issued in International Application No. PCT/JP2004/011648.
	Alkaisi, Maan M., et al., "Nanolithography in the Evanescent Near Field," <u>Advanced Materials</u> , 13, No. 12-13, July 4, 2001, pp. 877-887.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1